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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, You are forever refuge and strength for the Members of the House of Representatives and for all the military forces of the United States of America.

United in common patriotism and by the spirit of prayer today, we mentally remove ourselves from this honored and secure Chamber and desire to stand with our military, both in Iraq and Afghanistan, and pray together with our troops.

Together we seek an end to war and all forms of terrorism. Together we long for peace. Together we desire to see respect for human life and civil rights in all the streets of Baghdad and the valleys of Afghanistan. Together we are resolved to work to form stronger national unions in these countries with domestic tranquillity and common defense. Together we hope they will establish equal justice under the law. Together we pray for the secure blessing of liberty for ourselves and the posterity of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Lord God, You have placed these movements in our hearts. Show America how to accomplish this task today, tomorrow and every day. For we place all our trust in You now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIREs) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SIREs led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain ten 1-minutes on each side.

REPUBLICANS SEEM CONTENT TO GIVE THE PRESIDENT ANOTHER BLANK CHECK ON IRAQ

(Mr. SIREs asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SIREs. Madam Speaker, this week the war in Iraq enters its fifth year. Today I doubt anyone in this Chamber will stand up and say that it has gone as expected.

Our troops have served this Nation admirably, but the Bush war cabinet failed to properly plan for a war in Iraq. As a result, even the Pentagon now admits what many of us have been saying for months: A civil war is being fought in Iraq.

This week, we have an opportunity to send the President a message that this war is not going to go on indefinitely. Even in the face of increased violence in Iraq and the lack of real progress towards a political solution, congressional Republicans continue to pledge to stay the course.

Madam Speaker, the days of rubber-stamping the President's requests are over. The American people want Iraq to take responsibility for its own nation. The only way that is going to happen is if the Iraqi Government knows we are not going to be there indefinitely.

FY 2007 SUPPLEMENTAL BILL

(Mr. HERGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the FY 2007 supplemental measure as currently written. It would place dangerous constraints on our mission and our war on terrorism in Iraq by empowering our Congress to overrule our Nation's top generals, who best understand the challenges there. Our Iraq policy should be based on the recommendation of General Petraeus, not the commands of armchair generals in Congress. Our Nation's mission in Iraq is too important to fall victim to the dangerous congressional micromanagement.

Iraq is a central front in a war against the radical jihadists. The outcome of this mission will greatly impact our national security for decades to come. For this reason, this body should pass a supplemental bill that fully funds our troops, without tying the hands of our military commanders.

Vote "no" on this supplemental.

VOTE "YES" ON HOUSE RESOLUTION 1234

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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